

THE FIFTH DAY.

Friday, the 13th March, 1925.

The Assembly met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at 12-10 P. M. the Dewan presiding.

DEWAN : I am sorry I am late. We will proceed with the representations.

34. Communications in the Devicolam Division.

MR. C. A. A. MEERA ROWTHER (*Member, Peermade taluk*) described the hardships experienced by the people owing to lack of proper communications in the undeveloped taluks of Peermade and Devicolam which were, however, bringing in a large annual revenue to the Government under land tax, excise and forests. The six feet trace from Cumbam to Vandanmettu should be metalled and converted into a cart road, as it was the only route for the transport of cardamoms to British India and food-stuffs to the estates. All the transport was now done by means of headloads or mules and the cost was very high. The work, though most urgently required, had not been taken up even after repeated representations in the Assembly. The proposal had the active support of the Cardamom Planters' Association.

The Kumili-Devicolam road, sanctioned long ago, had progressed only as far as Periakanal. The portion from Kumili to Vandanmet should at least be completed soon.

The Kumili-Aladi pathway, the only communication for the removal of timber from the coupes, was in a deplorable condition. The road should be improved and rendered fit for cart traffic.

DEWAN : In the first place, you have said that there is only a foot path from Vandanmettu to Cumbam and that there should be a cart road instead. The Chief Engineer will be asked to look into the matter, to prepare an estimate and send a report to the Government.

As regards the road from Kumili to Kattappanai, it has been aligned and will be widened. Some more work will be done next year.

As regards the road from Kumili to Aiyappankoil, there have been breaches due to heavy rains and these breaches will be repaired by the Government.

35. Concessions to Jenmies.

MR. P. NARAYANA BHATTATIRI (*Member, Jenmies, Quilon Division*) made the following requests on behalf of the Malayala Brahmin community.

(i) Lands adjoining *Devaswomvaka* and *Brāhmaswomvaka* lands belonging to the *jenmies* and wrongly recorded as *peramboke* at the last settlement should be transferred to the ownership of *jenmies*, or at least registered in their names.

(ii) Exemption should be granted to the *jenmies* from payment of income tax on the income derived from *Karamozhivu* lands in their possession.

(iii) The money diverted from religious endowments, etc., for expenditure on special schools should be utilised for the grant of scholarships to boys of the community.

(iv) The scheme of studies in the Veda Branch of the Sanskrit College required revision. The best arrangement would be to provide instruction in the Vedas, etc., under qualified *Tantries* in the important temples in each group, under the control of the Devaswom Department.